

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to place the claims in more conventional U.S. patent format.

Early examination of claims 1-27 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

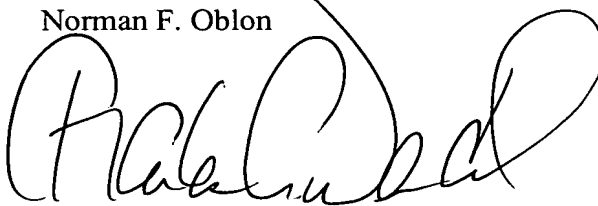
Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over a horizontal line.

Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

NFO:CAW\rlc